GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2963
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission for growing genetically engineered crops in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the names of institutes engaged in the development of seeds to grow genetically engineered crops in the country at present;

(d) whether the Government have examined the implications of these crops on the India Agricultural sector before giving permission; and

(e) if so, the details of Institutes conducting research in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : Sir, the Government, at present is examining with the help of experts, the proposals received from national laboratories as well as private industry for conducting research trials on genetically engineered crops in the country in small experimental plots. Only after assessing their safety to environment including human and animal health risks, Government of India would consider giving permission to grow genetically engineered crops in the country with full biosafety protocols.

(c) : At present, national institutions like Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry; Bose Institute, Calcutta; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Delhi University, South Campus, New Delhi; Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Substation Shillong; Central Potato Research Institute, Simla; IARI, New Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and privat institutions like M/s. Pro Agro PGS India Ltd., Gurgaon; M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mumbai; M/s. Rallis India Ltd Bangalore; M/s. Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore and M/s. Rasi Seeds Co., Attur are engaged in the development of genetically modified crops in the country.

(d) & (e) :Yes Sir. There are Expert Committees, Monitoring and Evaluation teams and individual experts who examine the detailed implications. The national institutions involved are : Industrial Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow and Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore; Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad; Dr. Panjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola; and Marathawada Agriculture University, Parbhani.